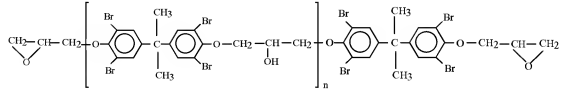
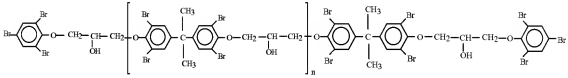
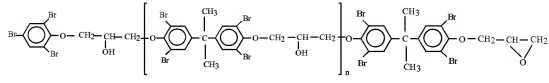
1. (Currently amended) A flame retardant (FR) for engineering ~~engineered thermoplastics,~~ engineering thermoplastic compositions, said FR containing less than 100 ppm of organic solvents with boiling point lower than 250° C. while increasing melt flow index of said compositions and minimizing corrosion of metallic parts being in contact with said compositions, prepared according to the method claim 22, which comprises a mixture of compounds of formula (I) and/or formula (II) and/or formula (III):



Formula (I)



Formula (II)



Formula (III)

wherein n is an integer; and

wherein at least 80 mol% of the end groups of all three formulae in the mixture are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups, and at most 20 mol% of said end groups are glycidyl groups;

said retardant being characterized by:

i) a molecular weight of between 7,000 and 50,000 Daltons;

ii) a free tribromophenol content less than 0.1 wt% of the whole flame retardant; and

iii) a content of organic solvents, with boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of the whole flame retardant.

2. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, wherein 85 to 100 mol% of the end groups are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups and 0 to 15 mol % of the end groups are glycidyl groups.

3. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, wherein the content of said organic solvents with boiling point lower than 250°C, is lower than 50 ppm.

4. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, comprising from 70 to 100 mol% of modified brominated epoxides BEs of formula (II), from 30 to 0 mol% of partly modified BEs of formula (III), and from 10 to 0 mol% of unmodified BEs of formula (I).

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, having molecular weight higher than 7,000 and lower than 30,000 Daltons.

7. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, having an acid number less than 1 mg KOH/g.

8. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 7, having an acid number less than 0.5 mg KOH/g.

9. (Previously presented) A flame retardant according to claim 1, having an epoxy equivalent of more than 10,000.

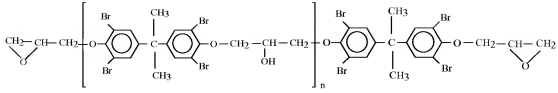
10. (Currently Amended) A flame-retarded ~~engineered~~ engineering thermoplastic composition, comprising a base polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, ~~or~~ polybutylene terephthalate, mixtures of polyethylene terephthalate with polybutylene terephthalate, polyamides, and polycarbonate or its alloys, and further comprising at least one flame retardant according to claim 1.

Claims 11-19 (Canceled).

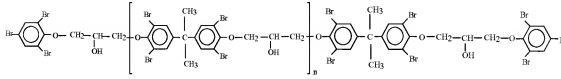
20. (Currently amended) A flame-retarded ~~engineered~~ engineering thermoplastic composition according to claim 10, further comprising hindered phenol antioxidants.

21. (Currently amended) A flame-retarded ~~engineered~~ engineering thermoplastic composition according to claim 10, further comprising fillers and/or glass reinforcement and/or antioxidants and/or lubricants and/or pigments and/or anti-dripping agents and/or grades of talc that act as nucleating agents and that reduce the injection molding cycle time.

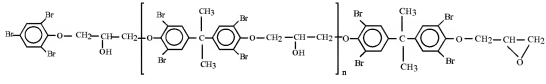
22. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of a flame retardant (FR) for ~~engineered thermoplastics~~ engineering thermoplastic compositions, said FR containing less than 100 ppm of organic solves with boiling point lower than 250°C. and increasing melt flow index of said compositions while minimizing corrosion of metallic parts being in contact with said compositions, said FR being a high molecular weight brominated expoxide (HMW BE) ~~retardant~~ comprising a mixture of compounds of formula (I) and/or formula (II) and/or formula (III):



Formula (I)



Formula (II)



Formula (III)

wherein n is an integer; and

wherein at least 80 mol% of the end groups of all three formulae in the mixture are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups, and at most 20 mol% of said end groups are glycidyl groups;

said FR ~~retardant~~ being characterized by ~~: i)~~ a molecular weight of between 7,000 and 50,000 Daltons; and ~~ii)~~ a free tribromophenol content less than 0.1 wt% ~~of the whole flame retardant; and~~

~~iii) a content of organic solvents, with boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of the whole flame retardant, which minimizes corrosion of metallic parts~~;

wherein said method comprises the steps of:

a) preparing low molecular weight brominated epoxide (LMW BE) [[7]] having a molecular weight of between 650 and 3,500 Daltons, and a content of organic solvents, with boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of said LMW BE ; and

b) reacting said LMW BE with tetrabromobisphenol-A (TBBA), and with a component selected from the group consisting of

tribromophenol (TBP), tribromophenylglycidyl ether and ~~or~~ a mixture thereof, in the presence of a catalyst, wherein said reaction takes place without addition of any solvent, at a temperature of 100°C to 250°C,

said method being characterized in that it does not include any step of removing the solvent from said high molecular weight brominated expoxide ~~wherein residual organic solvents are removed~~.

23. (Canceled)